

Message Text

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51

ACTION IO-10

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AMEMBASSY MONTREAL

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PARIS FOR UNESCO

ROME FOR FODAG

VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO

MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNDP

SUBJ: CERP 008 - EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS -
LESOTHO

REF: STATE 064907

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: RESPONSE KEYED TO PARA 5 REFTEL.

A. UNDP RES REP EFFECTIVE LEADER OF ALL UNDP
ACTIVITIES AND HAS SUFFICIENT COORDINATION RES-
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PONSIBILITIES FOR ALL OTHER UN ACTIVITIES.

EFFORTS OF OTHER AGENCIES TO COOPERATE WITH RESREP GENERALLY GOOD, BUT COULD BE IMPROVED. UNDP HAS ACTIVELY SUPPORTED ON-GOING IBRD PROJECTS BY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN UNPLANNED AREAS, BUT HAS HAD LIMITED INVOLVEMENT IN PROJECT PREPARATION. CURRENT RESREP HAS BUILT UPON PREDECESSORS EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH GOL AND RAPPORT IS EXEMPLARY. SENIOR UNDP OFFICER ASSIGNED FULL TIME LIAISON/ASSISTANCE RESPONSIBILITIES WITH PLANNING OFFICE.

B. WITH CONCURRENCE OF GOL. RESIDENT DONOR REPRESENTATIVES (AID, UNDP, UK) MEET REGULARLY ON INFORMAL BASIS. UNDP PROVIDED MAJOR ASSISTANCE TO GOL IN HOLDING LOCAL CONFERENCE WITH ALL DONORS AS PART OF SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN. UNDP HAS SUCCESSFULLY ADMINISTERED FUNDS IN TRUST FROM SMALL DONORS, PARTICULARLY SIDA.

C. COORDINATION OF OTHER UN SYSTEM ACTIVITIES SATISFACTORY. UNDP CONSIDERS ESTABLISHMENT OF DISCRETIONARY FUND FOR QUICK REACTION REQUIREMENTS FROM DISASTERS TO CONSULTANTS WOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE. CONCUR.

D. COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEWS HELD IN 1972 AND 1973 BUT NOT IN 1974. UNDP HAS MADE SERIOUS ATTEMPTS TO MAKE THIS EFFECTIVE PROCESS, BUT GOL PARTICIPATION SOMEWHAT WEAK. REVIEWS HAVE NONETHELESS BEEN USEFUL. TO DATE THEY HAVE INCLUDED UNDP, PROJECT TECHNICIANS, TECHNICAL MINISTRY AND PLANNING OFFICE. ALTHOUGH IN SOME AREAS PARTICIPATION OF BI-LATERALS WOULD HAVE BEEN USEFUL, THEY HAVE NOT BEEN INCLUDED. THIS HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH RES REP AND FUTURE PARTICIPATION EXPECTED.

E. REFERENCED AIRGRAMS DISCUSSED WITH UNDP. LIAISON TO DATE HAS NOT BEEN AS EFFECTIVE AS DESIRABLE. ALTHOUGH OSARAC DOES NOT HAVE STAFF FOR REGULAR APPRAISAL PROCESS, HAVE REQUESTED LIAISON ON PROJECTS RELATED TO AID PROGRAM. ANTICIPATE NO PROBLEMS.

F. 1. INSUFFICIENCY OF PROPERLY TRAINED COUNTERPARTS AND RELATED INSUFFICIENCY OF TRAINING IS A PROBLEM. UNDP HAS NO PROJECT TIED TRAINING. FREQUENT PROFESSIONAL DISPARITY BETWEEN EXPERTS AND COUNTERPARTS OFTEN MAKES ON THE JOB LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRAINING VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE. ALTHOUGH A NON-TIED TRAINING FUND IS USED ALSO FOR TRAINING COUNTERPARTS TO PROJECT TECHNICIANS, COORDINATION OF FUND AND PROJECT TRAINING NEEDS HAS NOT BEEN SINGULARLY SUCCESSFUL. UNDP HAS EMPHASIZED TRAINING (PROJECTED TRAINING EXPENDITURES NOW TWICE IPF FIGURES BUT TENDENCY HAS BEEN TO USE NON-TIED TRAINING PROGRAM AS FUND OF LAST RESORT FOR JUST ABOUT ANYTHING. UNDP HAS EVIDENCED CONCERN OVER SITUATION.

2. TO DATE UNDP HAS BEEN WILLING TO LET GOL USE IT AS "DONOR OF LAST RESORT". GOL HAS ALSO BEEN USING U.K. IN SIMILAR MANNER. UNDP HAS NOW ABOUT 85 ON-GOING OR APPROVED PROJECTS (EXCLUDING FELLOWSHIPS) AND LITTLE OVERALL PROGRAM FOCUS. WHILE THIS APPROACH IS RESPONSIVE TO IMMEDIATE NEEDS, IT MAY NOT BE CONDUCIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CLEAR DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES WITHIN GOVERNMENT.

3. ALTHOUGH PAST PERFORMANCE ON STRENGTHENING OR ELIMINATING WEAK PROJECTS HAS BEEN SPOTTY, RECENT INCREASE IN UNDP MANAGEMENT STAFF SHOULD IMPROVE SITUATION.

4. SOME UN ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING EXPERTS TO UNDP PROJECTS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY SLOW IN RESPONSE. OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO BOTH UNDP AND GOL IS PERFORMANCE OF FAO.

5. AS WITH ALL DONORS, CRITICAL HOUSING SHORTAGE HAS AFFECTED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, DESPITE UNDP HOUSING CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM.

G. TRI-PARTITE REVIEW SYSTEM HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED AND IS GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY BY UNDP. GOL PARTICIPATION NOT ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY, DUE IN PART TO STAFF SHORTAGES. UNDP ACTIVE IN TRYING TO IMPROVE SITUATION AND SOME PROGRESS EVIDENT.

H. UNDP HAS ACTIVELY SOUGHT TO CARRY OUT UN MANDATE ON WOMEN, BUT HAS YET TO GENERATE SIGNIFICANT GOL INTEREST. WFP PROGRAM HAS SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON RURAL WOMEN.

I. 1. INCREASED EMPHASIS ON TRAINING OF TECHNICIAN COUNTER-PARTS WOULD IMPROVE PROGRAM. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. ONE AREA NOT DISCUSSED ABOVE IS WHO PROGRAM IN LESOTHO WHICH VERGES ON BEING DISASTROUS. WHO REP WIDELY CONSIDERED TO BE TOTALLY INCOMPETENT. IT IS DIFFICULT TO DISCERN ANY IMPACT OF WHO ADVISORY TEAM EXCEPT ACTIVITIES OF SANITARIAN. WHO PROGRAM IN LESOTHO URGENTLY NEEDS IN-DEPTH OBJECTIVE EVALUATION. DO NOT BELIEVE UNDP WOULD BE ADVERSE TO SUCH AN EXERCISE. HAUGHT

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